

Message Text

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SUBJ: 1978 BUDGET SUBMISSION TO CONGRESS

REF: (A) STATE 289728; (B) USNATO 4252

SUMMARY: REVISED BUDGET ESTIMATES AS REQUESTED. END SUMMARY.

1. THE REVISED ESTIMATES FOR 1977 AND 1978 NATO BUDGETS,
EXCLUDING CHAPTER IX - DEFENSE SUPPORT AND MBFR COSTS, FOLLOW:

	US SHARE AT
TOTAL	24.20 PERCENT
ESTIMATED BUDGET FOR CY 1977	BF1,658,690,100 401,403,004
MANDATORY INCREASES	195,000,000
ESTIMATED BUDGET FOR CY 1978	1,853,690,100 448,593,004

2. THE BUDGET ESTIMATE FOR 1977 IS BASED ON THE REVIEW JUST
COMPLETED BY THE CIVIL BUDGET COMMITTEE. THE AMOUNT IS LOWER
THAN THAT SHOWN IN REF B FOR THE FOLLOWING REASONS:

A. FIVE POSITIONS REQUESTED FOR THE SITUATION CENTER WERE
NOT FILLED.

B. THE SAVINGS FROM A PORTION OF THE 2 PERCENT STAFF REDUCTION
RECOMMENDED BY THE COUNCIL IN DECEMBER 1975 WILL BE REFLECTED
FOR THE FIRST TIME IN THE 1977 BUDGET.

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C. THE KNOWN CREDIT FOR MISCELLANEOUS RECEIPTS WAS INCLUDED.

3. PURPOSES AND BENEFITS TO THE UNITED STATES:

NORTH ATLANTIC ASSEMBLY MEETINGS PROVIDE AN OPPORTUNITY FOR

CONSULTATIONS AMONG ALLIED PARLIAMENTARIANS AND SENIOR ALLIANCE OFFICIALS, AS WELL AS A FORUM WHERE MEMBERS OF NATO'S PARLIAMENTARY BODIES CAN GET TO KNOW EACH OTHER AND SHARE IDEAS ABOUT COMMON PROBLEMS. MOREOVER, IN THE WORK OF ITS SPECIAL COMMITTEES, THE NAA CONTRIBUTES USEFUL ANALYSES IN IMPORTANT ISSUES FACING WESTERN GOVERNMENTS. AT ITS ANNUAL MEETINGS, THE ASSEMBLY MAKES VALUABLE RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE NORTH ATLANTIC COUNCIL AND THE DEFENSE PLANNING COMMITTEE OF NATO; FOR EXAMPLE, ON SUCH ISSUES AS THE RATIONALIZATION OF DEFENSE RESOURCES WITHIN THE ALLIANCE, EAST-WEST RELATIONS, THE COORDINATION OF NATIONAL ECONOMIC POLICIES, AND THE EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES OF NATO.

AS INDICATED BY THE RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED AT THE 22ND ANNUAL SESSION OF THE NORTH ATLANTIC ASSEMBLY, HELD IN WILLIAMSBURG, VIRGINIA, FROM 14 TO 20 NOVEMBER 1976, THE ASSEMBLY WILL CONTINUE ACTIVITIES SUPPORTIVE OF NATO AND US OBJECTIVES IN FY 1977.

4. THE BUDGET OFFICER OF THE NORTH ATLANTIC ASSEMBLY ADVISED THAT THE BUDGET FOR CY 1977 IS ESTIMATED AT BF 33,612,000. NO ESTIMATE WAS PROVIDED FOR 1978, BUT HE STATED THAT EVERY EFFORT WOULD BE MADE TO KEEP THE SAME LEVEL AS FY 1977, BUT THE COST-OF-LIVING INCREASE IN BELGIUM WOULD BE THE DETERMINING FACTOR. THE BELGIAN GOVERNMENT'S COST-OF-LIVING INDEX HAS GONE FROM 147.64 IN OCTOBER 1975 TO 159.91 IN OCTOBER 1976, OR AN INCREASE OF 8.3 PERCENT. STREATOR

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